

Seattle design Commission

September 22, 2009

Greg Nickels
Mayor

Diane Sugimura
Director, DPD

Raymond Gastil
Planning Director, DPD

Honorable Richard Conlin
Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall
600 Fourth Avenue 2nd floor
Seattle, WA 98124

Mary Johnston
Chair

Andrew Barash

Julie Bassuk

Graham Black

Brendan Connolly

John Hoffman

Julie Parrett

Nathan Polanski

Dennis Ryan

Norie Sato

Guillermo Romano
Executive Director

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Tom Iurino
Senior Staff

RE: Stormwater Code Revision

The Seattle Design Commission would like to express support for the revision of the Seattle Stormwater Code to incorporate, define and encourage the use of green stormwater infrastructure throughout the City on both public and private projects. We feel it is important that SPU and SDOT incorporate in-house review and strongly support the development of standard details and specifications for green stormwater infrastructure.

Additionally, the Design Commission encourages the City to carefully consider the definition of the phrase "maximum extent feasible" to ensure that green stormwater infrastructure performs well for all uses and users including: stormwater, community, mobility and habitat. Green stormwater infrastructure should not only address the conveyance, collection, treatment, and control of stormwater but also recognize how the facilities impact:

- Mobility: The movement and mobility of people, traffic and goods around and through the infrastructure.
- Community: Respect the natural character of the neighborhood, inspire development, and endeavor to meet the goals and needs of the community.
- Habitat: Create elements to sustain and enhance the local habitat.

In terms of the Design Commission review process, the Commission feels it would be beneficial to identify/designate an SPU/SDOT resource person with expertise in green infrastructure in urban settings to advise the Commission as needed on individual project reviews and application of the code.



**Department of Planning
and Development**
700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000
PO Box 34019
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

TEL 206-615-1349
FAX 206-233-7883

Celebrating 40 Years 1968-2008



In general, projects that should be considered for review by the Design Commission that may include green stormwater infrastructure include:

- Roadway Projects:
 - Green Streets;
 - Great Streets;
 - Multi-modal Streets.
- Parcel-based Projects:
 - City of Seattle Parks;
 - Projects adjacent to City of Seattle Parks or significant public spaces;
 - Projects adjacent to significant urban cores/developments;
 - Projects within Urban Villages and/or Downtown.
- Trail/Sidewalk Projects:
 - Green Streets;
 - Great Streets;
 - Multi-modal Streets;
 - Projects adjacent to City of Seattle Parks or significant public spaces;
 - Projects adjacent to significant urban cores/developments;
 - Projects within Urban Villages and/or Downtown.
- Joint Projects:
 - As indicated above.

We thank you for consideration of our recommendations on the extensive revisions proposed to the City's storm, grading, and drainage control code. The proposed legislation will be a leap forward to benefit the public and the environment.

Sincerely,



Mary Johnston
Chair Seattle Design Commission

Cc: Diane Sugimura, Director, DPD
Raymond Gastil, Planning Director, DPD
Rob Gala, Elaine Ko and Phyllis Shulman, Councilman Conlin's Staff
Ray Hoffman, Acting Director, SPU
Nancy Ahern, Deputy Director, Utility Systems Management, SPU
Bruce Bachen, Scientific & Technical Services Division Director, SPU
Tracy Tackett, Low Impact Development Program Manager, SPU
Meg Moorehead, Council Central Staff
Martha Burke, Creeks, Drainage and Wastewater Advisory Committee